

DOCKET NO.: FCI-2605/C2983
Applicatio No.: 09/944,266
Office Action Dated: May 30, 2003

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-7 and 13-15 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-7 and 14-15 have been withdrawn due to the restriction requirement. Accordingly, claim 13 is presented for further review.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 8-10, 12-13 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 8-10, 12 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gallo (U.S. Pat. No. 3,497,850). Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gallo in view of Means (U.S. Pat. No. 4,780,088). The rejections of record directed to claims 8-10, 12 and 21-22 are moot in view of their cancellation. The rejections directed to claim 13 are discussed in detail below.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In particular, the examiner states that "AC power cable plug" is not originally disclosed in the specification. Applicants have amended claim 13 by deleting "plug" from the end of this phrase. The remainder of the phrase -- AC power cable -- is disclosed in a plethora of locations within the originally filed application, and is therefore believed to comply with the first paragraph of section 112. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unparentable over Gallo in view of Means.

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The examiner states that "Means, figs. 1 & 2, show a cover (20, 40) cover a housing (30, 10) and a mounting (not labeled) that the housing can float within the bracket. It would have been obvious to one with skill in the art to modify the connector of Gallo, Sr. by providing the connector with a cover and a bracket, as taught by Means, in order to protect the connector housing."

Applicants respectfully submit that the examiner has ignored distinguishing features explicitly recited in claim 13. Claim 13 recites, inter alia, "said cover having a groove around the perimeter thereof; and a mounting bracket having portions thereof loosely fitted within said groove such that said insulative housing can float with said mounting bracket". Means fails to disclose a groove around the perimeter of its cover. Furthermore, all of the structural features that Means does disclose are rigidly affixed to one another, and therefore, a floating configuration between any such features does not exist. Since Gallo and Means taken together fail to disclose all of the features recited in claim 13, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103 rejection.

Conclusion:

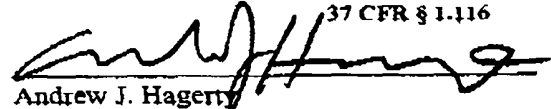
The foregoing represents a complete response to the Office Action, and Applicants submit that claim 13 in its present form are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

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Date: August 25, 2003

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439

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Andrew J. Hagerty
Registration No. 44,141